

Message Text

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54

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SUBJ: AUSTRIAN JEWISH TRANSIT CAMP

1. AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING SPOKESMAN OF SYG EXPLAINED UN POSITION ON REQUEST OF AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT THAT UN ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OFR THE JEWISH REFUGEE TRANSIT CAMP FACILITIES NEAR VIENNA. TEXT OF SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS FOREIGN MINISTER HAS IN-QUIRED OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES REGARDING A ROLE FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REGUGEES IN THE TRANSIT CAMP FACILITIES NEAR VIENNA. THE SG EXPLAINED THAT THE MANDATE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 428 ADOPTED BY THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THAT RESOLUTION LISTS THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. WHAT ADDITIONAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD REQUIRE A DECISION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

"THE OPI SPOKESMAN IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT NOTED THAT BOTH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FEEL THAT SUCH A ROLE IN THE AUSTRIAN TRANSIT CAMP ISSUE WOULD BE BEYOND THE PRESENT MANDATE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, UNLESS
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A SPECIAL REQUEST CAME FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE CON-

VENTION ON REFUGEES SPELLS OUT SPECIFICALLY WHAT A REFUGEE IS, AND THE JEWISH TRANSITS DO NOT FALL IN THIS CATEGORY. THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED REFUGEES, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. HE STRESSED THAT IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WANTED TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT WOULD BE ANOTHER QUESTION."

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